

Von: Jennifer Reed Dillon
An: gefiplan@kreutzer-gruppe.de
Betreff: ROSA ROSE - A PLEA FOR ITS PRESERVATION
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Dear Mr. Kreutzer,

I am an art and architectural historian at Duke University in the United States. I am writing IN support of the Rosa Rose community garden. I strongly urge you to consider alternatives to your current plan to build over the site.

The Rosa Rose community garden invites participation from all the residents of the Kiez. It encourages a diverse population to participate in a common public sphere and to get to know each other. In a part of the city notorious for lacking lushness and greenery, it provides an invaluable experience of the natural world. But I would also like to point out here a very special aspect of Rosa Rose that is relevant to my current area of study: its contribution to public space and to the lives of children.

In the United States right now, we are starting to become aware of a phenomenon that has been called, "Nature Deficit Disorder." This refers to a loss of contact with the natural world among children and the measurable effects of that loss. In the US, high real estate values and infill development in the city have changed urban space. Thirty years ago, nature regularly reclaimed empty lots in the city, giving rise to informal "green areas." They were places in the daily life children and were also places for neighborhood gatherings and activities. New research suggests that children develop a stronger sense of independence and autonomy when they have a relationship to the natural world ? its rhythms, its unstructured space, its rich materials, the multiple forms of life that thrive there. Land in the city has become so valuable that there are hardly any of these natural spaces left. Americans are waking up to the consequences of this "deficit." Indeed, we there are documented benefits for the mental and physical health of our children when they and their families have some contact with the natural world.

For years I have learned from and been inspired by the many ways that residents of the city of Berlin have given their creative and social energy to the public sphere ? without any thought for their own gain. Rosa Rose is an example of this kind of project. However, if residents receive do not get support and encouragement for this type of initiative, they will certainly stop creating them. This will impoverish Berlin a great deal.

I urge you to consider playing the role of advocate and supporter of Rosa Rose by changing your plans for this property.

Thank you very much in advance for your attention.

Jennifer Dillon, Ph.D.